

Hill Women Help Create Stronger Community

Ruth Passen One of a Handful of Women Who Led Social Welfare Efforts

By Lori Higa

Born in San Francisco's Fillmore district, at Mt. Zion hospital, Ruth Passen née Elkind is a native San Franciscan and true progressive. Now 82 years old, the petite, spunky, silver-haired former *View* publisher lives on the top of Rhode Island Street, with a breath-taking view of Twin Peaks from her living room. Her cozy apartment, like her life, is chock full of tschotkes, awards, books and mementos of more than three decades of publishing San Francisco's longest-running neighborhood newspaper, and being one of the Hill's most dedicated community, peace and social justice advocates.

Passen attended John Swett Junior High School and Lowell High School, growing up in the neighborhood straddling today's Fillmore and Western Addition neighborhoods. Her parents, originally from New York and descended from Russian, Jewish and Polish immigrants, ran



Ruth Passen.

a corner grocery store on McAllister and Webster streets, selling items such as chickens, cream and cheese, "imported from Petaluma," Passen said wryly. The family attended an Orthodox synagogue on Webster

Street.

The neighborhood had a significant Japanese-American population; during World War II Passen realized that her schoolmates

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Peaker Plants Still in Play

By Deia de Brito

Intense politicking by Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resource Defense Council, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has slowed the momentum behind San Francisco Public Utility Commission's (SFPUC) proposal to site three combustion turbines (CT) in the Dogpatch neighborhood as a way to retire Mirant Corporation's 1960s-era Potrero Power Plant.

Last month Mayor Gavin Newsom asked the Board of Supervisors to delay voting on the CTs to provide more time to consider alternative reliability plans. "I don't want to live to regret this decision. We may look like fools five years from now," said Newsom.

In response, PG&E has renewed its efforts to convince the City to adopt a power plant-free approach to ensuring electric reliability, relying instead on a mix of energy management and small-scale generation, including a proposal to clean-up small back-up diesel engines that was previously rejected by the California Public Utility Commission. Simultaneously, SFPUC Commissioner Richard Sklar is exploring re-powering the Potrero Power Plant's existing three back-up diesel units as a low-cost way of

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Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski.

Proposed District 10 Land Swap Raises Concerns

By Deia de Brito

When the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation was preparing Proposition A – a \$185 million bond for park maintenance and acquisition – Tony Kelly, an Open Space Task Force member and president of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, was asked to be on the bond's working group. While evaluating the bond before it was placed on last February's ballot, Kelly stumbled across a three year-old proposed deal that blew his mind: half of City-owned Channel Street in Potrero Hill would be turned over to Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., a privately-held company that

manages all waste and recycling in San Francisco, in exchange for an acre of Little Hollywood Park in Visitation Valley.

Under the land swap, Norcal, which currently rents a small portion of its Little Hollywood Park property to the City for a dollar a year, would transfer the whole park to San Francisco in exchange for Channel Street, Showplace Square's largest remaining piece of undeveloped public land. The Channel Street property is adjacent to Norcal's Golden Gate Disposal and Recycling facility on Seventh and Berry streets. But the exchange – which would cost Norcal nothing – might cost the waterfront neighborhood its open space and yield the private company big bucks.

Running parallel to the Mission Creek wetland, for years Channel Street has been viewed by the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC), Open Space Task Force and other community groups as the perfect place for a park. "The neighborhood made us aware of its potential as part of the Blue Greenway Project," said Isabel Wade, NPC's president. The Blue Greenway consists of a 13-mile corridor along San Francisco's southeastern waterfront, extending from China Basin to Candlestick Point, in which green infrastructure and public art would be installed, providing recreation and connecting open spaces through trails and bike paths.

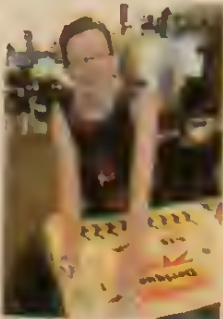
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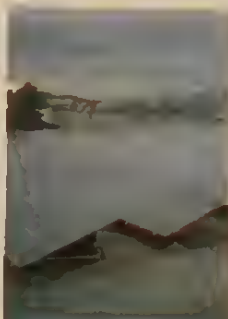
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Publisher's View Private Property

By Steven J. Moss

One of our society's most fiercely protected tenets is the sanctity of private property. By and large if you own something you can do what you want with it. In most places in America an owner can let their property remain vacant, allowing it to molder into dust, or sell or rent it for whatever price someone's willing to pay. Non-owners are left to the mercy of the market to dictate where they can live, for how long, and in what conditions.

San Franciscans are less enthusiastic about private property rights than the rest of the county. While we'll chain ourselves to a tree to protect an individuals' right to choose what to do with their body – whether that involves ingesting otherwise illegal drugs, having sex with anyone but a child, or surgically re-shaping one's gender – more often than not we'll fiercely oppose a tree owner from cutting down their property.

Some of our resistance to allowing purely private decisions to dictate what happens to property is embedded in our sympathy for "squatters' rights," an unpleasant-sounding moniker that reflects our deep desire to protect old-timers from being pushed off land they've occupied for years. We want the senior citizen who's lived in the same Potrero Hill apartment for a half-century, or the granddaughter of a World War II-era immigrant to Bayview, to be able to stay in their homes and communities, even as housing prices rise.

This month's election includes a number of ballot initiatives that reflect this core debate. Propositions F and G center on who gets to

(continue to) live in Bayview-Hunters Point; and Propositions 98 and 99 are a duel over rent control. Even Proposition A, which would impose a parcel tax to help pay for schools, contains a wrinkle on the debate, in that, like Proposition 13, it includes an opt-out clause for seniors, under the assumption that older property owners could be driven out of their homes if they had to pay an extra couple hundred dollars a year.

While the debate may be value-based, there are real outcomes at stake. Fewer low-income African-Americans will likely remain in San Francisco if Proposition F fails; while Bayview-Hunters Point is likely to remain economically depressed for a longer time period if Proposition G does the same. Similarly, rent control acts to suppress housing improvements and ownership – both by making renting more attractive and reducing the stock of entry-level condominiums and TICs – in many cases to protect wealthy European-Americans. But it also enables public school teachers, artists, and those on fixed incomes to stay in town. It's a complex debate, which too often has the texture of being between a steely-eyed rationalist welding patriotism and economic statistics against a wide-eye idealist who thinks that communication is best conducted by yelling.

Whatever initiatives prevail this month the conversation will continue. Perhaps in the future, though, the different sides should find a quieter corner to discuss their differences, and keep in mind that in the end none of us owns anything, or stays anywhere, forever.

staff, Starr King Principal Chris Rosenberg and his staff, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and her fellow Board members, and City Attorney Dennis Herrera for their assistance in resolving, in such a positive manner, our immediate situation.

We've now turned our attention to finding a permanent home for Friends in our community which will allow us to continue to provide education and parenting support to Hill families and children for many years to come. Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts or suggestions. Thanks to everyone in our community who has assisted us over the past 12 years.

Monica Leicht
The Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School



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View on Election

State Senate, District 3: In this competition between three Democratic Party stalwarts there is no truly bad choice, but we recommend **Mark Leno** as the best candidate to help lead the state to a more just, environmentally-friendly, and fiscally-sound future.

State Assembly, District 13: His voice may be high, and his jokes may be low, but **Tom Ammiano** is capable of doing a fine job for us in the assembly.

School Parcel Tax, A: We'll vote **Yes**, but not without some grumbling about the intergenerational inequities caused by Proposition 13's restrictions on property tax increases, which has transferred wealth from our schools to long-time property owners, and which this initiative attempts to replicate by providing a tax exemption for seniors. Still, our schools need the money, and our children deserve the investment.

Changing Qualifications for Retiree Health and Pension Benefits and Establishing a Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, B: **Yes** to this technical fix.

Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits for Conviction of a Crime Involving Moral Turpitude in Connection with City Employment, C: Nobody wants to reward city officials for bad behavior, but numerous scenarios can be imagined in which stripping an individual of their retirement pay could be unduly harsh: the city librarian, who, after 30 years of superlative service, steals some old manuscripts; the firefighter who grabs a valuable token from a burnt-out building. And in most cases retirement monies are used to support long-time partners, who may have nothing to do with the crime. **No.**

Appointments to City Boards and Commissions, D: How about a requirement that board and commission members be competent? San Francisco already tends towards flash over substance, and bends over backwards to accommodate any host of individual preferences and differences. **No.**

Requiring Board of Supervisors' Approval of Mayor's Appointments to the Public Utilities Commission and Creating Qualifications for Commission Members, E: Anyone who's had to tilt against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) has lived to regret it. A critical difference in railing against PG&E, though, is an analytically-based California Public Utility Commission which relies on quasi-judicial proceedings open to all comers to render decisions on complex resource issues affected the state's investor-owned utilities. Which is to say, it's the decision making process that's broken and needs reform at the SFPUC, more than the decision-makers. **No.**

Affordable Housing Requirement for the Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard Mixed-Use Development Project/Mixed-Use Development Project for Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard, F/G: The poisons aren't just in the old shipyard's soil. This decades-long land use imbroglio features enough characters to fill a *Deadwood* episode: neighborhood shake-down artists, "evil" developers, clueless and calculating city officials, and just plain poor people trying to get by in a complicated world. You could vote **no/no**, **yes/yes**, **yes/no**, or the opposite. We'll yield to the Potrero Hill Democratic Club: **Yes/Yes.**

Prohibiting Elected Officials, Candidates, or Committees They Control from Soliciting or Accepting Contributions from Certain City Contractors, H: The only thing controversial about this one is that there's any doubt that politicians shouldn't take payola. **Yes.**

Eminent Domain, 98/99: Rent control may be a fundamentally-flawed way of creating affordable housing; and local governments may occasionally use their powers poorly, but these sets of initiatives aren't the right solutions. **No/No.**



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Go Fish

Dogpatch-based **Moshi Moshi Sushi and Grill**, which has been serving sushi and teriyaki for more than two decades, is now open for Sunday dinner, from 4 to 9 p.m....The new nighttime hours may not sit well with a blogger at sfgate.com/traveler/guide/sf/neighborhoods/potrerohill.shtml, who, in a seven-year-old posting, wrote "The fog lifts over Potrero Hill before most of the rest of San Francisco, and daytime walks are one of its great draws. However, nighttime is a different story; besides at nightclubs and around 18th Street's restaurants and cafés, Potrero Hill can get deserted in a hurry, and care should be taken in deciding where to go for an evening stroll." While there are periodic crime waves in San Francisco – and a recent rash of muggings and car thefts in Bernal Heights, Liberty Hill, and Potrero Hill suggests we're in one now – the remedy isn't to stay home. By and large Potrero Hill is a safe community in which to perambulate, and what's the point of living in a city if you don't go out at night? If you don't feel safe walking, then let our local police and District 10 supervisor know about it.

Hill Bottoms

Potrero's **Bottom of the Hill**, which *Rolling Stone* magazine says is "the best place to hear live music in San Francisco," and which Potrero Booster Neighborhood Association president **Tony Kelly** calls a "model entertainment venue," is in danger of losing its liquor license. The 18-year-old club has been notified by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) that its food sales aren't sufficiently robust to merit associated liquor sales. Community members who'd like to see the establishment retain its right to serve drinks, and thereby remain in business, should let ABC's Ross Glen know their feelings: 71 Stevenson Street, Suite 1500, San

Short Cuts

Francisco 94105. In the meantime, order more food when you visit.

Singing Sensation

Heidi Moss, who was profiled in last month's *View* as a finalist in KDFC's 2008 Classical Star Search competition, wasn't selected as the contest's winner. But the Potrero Hill mom received a standing ovation for her performance, and, since she was competing against two pianists, was the first place vocalist. How do you compare singing with piano playing anyway?

It's a Grand Old Flag

In the wake of an April letter in the *View* complaining about its poor condition, the "filthy rag" that was flying at Pioneer Square, 555 De Haro Street, has been replaced with a new beautiful flag. That's a reason to stand-up and salute!

Help Wanted

Community members are raising funds to help pay for Kristen Lyons', known as Tiana, medical care. The 41-year-old mother of four-year-old Olive and wife of **Leo Bersamina**, who has an art studio on Mississippi and 17th streets, was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer two months ago. Tiana is being treated with chemotherapy and traditional medicine, as well as less conventional interventions that aren't covered by insurance, including Chinese medicine and nutrition. Information about how to contribute can be found at www.friendsoftiana.com.

Taking Care of Business

The Small Business Assistance Center, which is dedicated to serving the needs of San Francisco businesses with fewer than 100 employees, opened last month. The Center's case managers can help small firms with

issues related to business start-up and expansion; permits; procurement; compliance with laws and regulations; and resource referrals. For assistance call 554.6134 or email martha.yanez@sfgov.org

Don't Bank on It

In the midst of the nation's financial melt-down, in which property owners with superlative credit have had their equity lines unilaterally cut, **Union Bank** has been yanking its customers' insurance chain. Over the past year the bank has been making multiple niggling requests, some of which are either incorrect or contradictory, that its borrowers provide proof of property insurance. While the mortgage holders work through the paperwork process, the bank slaps high-cost coverage on their loan, in one case assessing \$18,000 in annual premiums on a property that was legitimately being

insured for less than \$6,000. Under federal law banks aren't allowed to place duplicate insurance on a property or reject valid evidence that it's already insured. Everyone in the business knows that lenders ask for paperwork over and over again, but this particular scam doesn't instill confidence that our banking system is on the rebound.

Exchange Students

Nonprofit AFS-USA needs families to host international high school students for six months beginning this August. AFS students come from more than 40 countries, and represent a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Local AFS volunteers enroll the students in high school, and provide support to students and their host families. AFS is also looking for folks who want to volunteer to work locally with families and their hosted students. For information: www.afs.org/usa/hostfamily 1.800.AFS.INFO.

Only on Potrero Hill; hope springs eternal at the corner of 18th and De Haro streets. Photo by David Jensen.



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- **TAWD Design** – Todd Hedgpeth
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Eastern Neighborhood Rezoning Efforts Continue as Planning Department Pushes for Office Space

By Lisa Tehrani

The San Francisco Planning Department is moving forward with its program to rezone large swathes of land currently used for industrial purposes in the Eastern South-of-Market, Mission, Showplace Square/Potrero Hill and Central Waterfront neighborhoods. Last month both the Planning Department and Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee held hearings on the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, with a focus on land use and jobs. Four more hearings are scheduled to discuss other rezoning elements, such as housing, public benefits and program implementation.

At the hearings two zoning designations were discussed for the Showplace Square/Potrero Hill and Central Waterfront areas: Urban Mixed Use (UMU) and Production, Distribution and Repair (PDR). The UMU designation would allow for office space, housing, and retail uses; essentially any activity but heavy industry. PDR is intended to preserve light industry and small businesses, allowing office space, residential and 2,500 to 5,000 square feet of retail per parcel. Showplace Square would be identified as PDR, with an emphasis on design-related businesses.

At its hearing the Planning Department discussed the role of

industrial land in the City and the rationale for converting some of it to residential and office space. Currently industrial lands make up roughly eight percent of San Francisco; the proposed zoning would reduce that to a bit less than six percent, according to the Department.

While City staff acknowledged that there is continuing demand for light industrial space, they asserted that there is a need to convert existing PDR to office space to maintain economic diversity. According to Ken Rich, Program Director for *Eastern Neighborhood Area Draft Plans*, businesses that can't afford high price downtown rents need alternative lower cost locations. "It makes sense to allow more office because a lot of industries have changed and modernized," he said. Zoning proposals wouldn't force existing light industrial businesses to leave; however economic forces are likely to drive out less profitable enterprises if land prices rise as a result of zoning changes.

In response, several citizens questioned why the amount of PDR space should be reduced given high demand within this zoning designation. A recent *San Francisco Chronicle* article calculated the current vacancy rate for offices at upwards of 15 percent, while the



Proposed zoning under the Eastern Neighborhood Plan.

PDR vacancy rate is less than one percent.

According to John Lau, District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's aide, Maxwell is keen on maintaining PDR land and suggested that "the City's office puzzle" didn't need to be solved with the limited industrial land supply since office space is already permitted downtown, in Mission Bay, the Presidio, and other places. Lau indicated that Maxwell wants a "strong PDR retention element" within the plans.

However, two of the four Planning Commissioners present suggested that they weren't as

interested in maintaining PDR space. Commissioner William Lee focused on the need to attract high technology industries to San Francisco; while Commissioner Michael Antonini suggested moving PDR to nearby cities.

The Planning Department also proposed to create two special use districts. In the Central Waterfront – excluding the Dogpatch Historic District – a Life Science and Medical Special Use district would be established in the area surrounding the University of California, San Francisco Mission Bay campus,

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Missouri Street Development Under Scrutiny for Possible Zoning Violations

By Kerry Fleisher

The ongoing construction of a 53,000 square foot building at 1250 Missouri Street has sparked controversy amongst nearby business owners, who believe that the building violates zoning regulations. The street is located within the Islais Creek Industrial Protection Zone, in which residential development isn't allowed. However, the installation

Department of Building Inspection and never routed to the Planning Department. The latter of the two revisions, which was packaged in an application for a Commercial Condominium Conversion and Lot Merger, includes the industrial fireplaces, extensive kitchen piping and mezzanine bathrooms.

Business owners in the light industrial corridor near Missouri

merchandise.

The project sponsor had originally applied for two permits in 1998—one to erect 16 live-work lofts, and the other to build office space—that were both denied by the Planning Department. Their final—and ultimately approved—application stated that the goal was to erect “retail space for bulky merchandise such as furniture.” The three applications contained similar subdivisions and floor plans, which raised Hester's suspicions that the developers had ulterior motives to transform the lot into residential use at a future date.

The 2001 plans for 1250 Missouri allowed for “rough-ins;” the installation of behind-the-walls pipes, electrical boxes and wire necessary for any future expansions. The plan specifically called for a “rough-in for future coffee bar” and “rough-in for future kitchen,” which would allow for basic plumbing and gas lines that could be transformed—after the project is finished—into an industrial kitchen. The current floor plans by Michael Leavitt Architects, however, have shifted the placement of the gas pipes to more closely resemble a typical live-work kitchen set-up. In a recent letter to concerned residents and business owners, Zoning Administrator Lawrence Badiner indicated that the Planning Department has required the project sponsor to resubmit blueprints that exclude kitchens, but include “rough-ins” for kitchens.

The 2001 plans didn't provide for centralized heating, though industrial fireplaces have already been installed. Whether industrial fireplaces are acceptable forms of heating for light-industrial use will be determined by the Planning Department in upcoming meetings. In his letter, Badiner wrote that the fireplaces “have already been installed and will therefore be included in the revisions.” In response, Potrero Booster Neighborhood Associate president Tony Kelly wrote, “Forcing the neighborhood to fight something that was not approved, but was installed illegally on these terms, is really unfair.”

The project comes under scrutiny at a time when Potrero Hill and Dogpatch activists are determined to enforce new zoning regulations that will emerge from the recently issued *Eastern Neighborhood Area Draft Plans*, which was produced after an almost decade-long community involvement process.

Hester noted that if the lot were to be developed into residential housing it would be required to meet a number of legal requirements, such as an Environmental Impact Review, and pay corresponding City housing fees. At the time the *View* went to print, the Planning Department had scheduled a Planning Commission hearing on May 29th to address concerns surrounding the Missouri Street parcel.



1250 Missouri Street. Photo by Keith Goldstein.

of fireplaces, mezzanine bathrooms, and extensive kitchen plumbing in the four-story building—which were not in the original floor plans authorized by the San Francisco Planning Department in 2001—has prompted neighbors to question whether the developer is attempting to illegally transform the light industrial building into 32 units of residential housing.

Seven years ago the Planning Department awarded project sponsor Maureen Shanahan a permit to construct retail space for bulky merchandise at the parcel. Neighbors filed two stop-work orders earlier this year to halt the installment of fireplaces and mezzanine bathrooms in the building. Both filings resulted in investigations by the Department of Building Inspection, which has closed both cases, stating on their permit tracking website that “everything is built according to approved plans.”

Since the original plans were approved they have undergone eight revisions, only six of which were approved by the Planning Department. The last two revisions, made in November 2005 and March 2006, were approved by the

Street are concerned that residential housing, if green-lighted by the City, could destroy the area's businesses practices. “If residential units are occupied on this small block, it will absolutely have an adverse effect on all of our businesses,” said Keith Goldstein, owner of Everest Waterproofing & Restoration, which is located near the development. The 1250 Missouri Street parcel is close by a number of machine, construction, and production drop-off points, which require a steady stream of incoming and outgoing trucks and forklifts. These activities could be undermined if residential units are built nearby, according to Goldstein.

Sue Hester, an attorney with Reuben & Alter, is intervening to stop the project. She originally filed for discretionary review at the Missouri Street site in 2000, arguing that the developer's blueprints were not conducive to light industrial zoning. As a result of the review, the Planning Department required that the developer widen corridors, install double doors, remove kitchen and mezzanine bathrooms, and accommodate bulky commercial



Back: Rick Laska, IT; John Ellis, L.Ac.; Frank Gilson, D.C.; Mike Gilson, IT
Front: Fabiola Garcia, Manager; Jackie Mendoza, Manager

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Daniel Webster Elementary School Gets a Face Lift

By Jennifer Betti

Daniel Webster Elementary School received a much needed facelift in April. Potrero Residents Education Fund's (PREFund) Stacey Bartlett led the application process that resulted in the school being selected by Rebuilding Together San Francisco (RBST) out of more than 100 applicants for rehabilitation services. RBST relies on volunteers from Bay

designed the colorful painting, which can be seen from Texas and 20th streets, and depicts children playing on lush green hills complete with Potrero Hill's historical goat mascots.

The much needed face lift compliments the rapid progress PREFund and Daniel Webster's administration have made over the past three years to improve the



Photo by Luca Prasso and Nadia Andreini.

Area corporations and community groups to repair, remodel and clean-up community facilities and homes for low-income and disabled people. RBST volunteers will return next year to paint the school's classrooms and fix appliances.

RBST fielded more than a 100 volunteers from Ernst and Young, Charles Schwab and DreamWorks Animation, who worked alongside PREFund and Daniel Webster families. The dedicated volunteers painted the school's exterior and created a beautiful neighborhood-oriented mural. DreamWorks artists

school. Earlier this year Daniel Webster received approval to host a Spanish immersion program starting in 2009. And in partnership with Mission Neighborhood Centers, PREFund has raised sufficient funds to open a Spanish bilingual preschool this fall on Daniel Webster's campus that will serve as a natural feeder into the elementary school. The preschool already has a waiting list of Potrero Hill families who want to keep their children in their neighborhood and are hoping to do the same for elementary school. For more information: www.prefund.org.

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Potrero Library Closes for Renovation



Closing party. Photo by Peter Linenthal.

By Jim Van Buskirk

Last month the Potrero Branch Library closed for what's likely to be a two-year renovation process. Built in 1957, at a cost of \$97,000, the building is slated for a \$5 million face-lift, including seismic, technological, and accessibility upgrades.

A closing party was held on May 17, a suitably beautiful afternoon to enjoy the Branch's breathtaking cityscape view. Steve Stein and Bob Rumello played guitar while Ellen Kerr performed a wonderfully eclectic selection of songs. A copious array of victuals was provided by local food purveyors, including The Ramp, Thinker's Café, Jay's Deli, Baraka, Goat Hill Pizza, and Good Life Grocery. It was a festive atmosphere as library lovers came to pay their respects to the venerable building filled with decades of memories.

Several parents reminisced about library-sponsored lap sits for their now college-age kids. A magician kept everyone entertained, while upstairs children were encouraged to draw on the walls or paint on canvas book bags. Those in attendance were delighted to make new friends or connect with those they hadn't seen in ages, as they inspected the floor plans, elevations and samples of construction materials that will be used in the new facility.

The speechifying was kept to a minimum. City Librarian Luis Herrera enthusiastically emphasized the importance of the community

celebration, as did Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval. Branch Manager Lia Hillman, Northeast District Manager Terry Gwiazdowski, Chief of Branches Brian Bannon and Branch staff were on hand, all happily looking forward to finally clearing out the Branch after more than a year delay.

Renovation highlights include seismic strengthening, improved heating and ventilation, a designated teen area, accessible restrooms, new elevator and stairs to an expanded second floor with a program room with after-hours access for community



Gina Telocci. Photo by Peter Linenthal.

meetings.

Because the public bonds approved by voters to fund the renovation cannot be used for the furniture, fixtures and equipment, the Potrero Hill Library Campaign, part of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library's Neighborhood Library Campaign, is working to raise an additional \$500,000. The funds will be used to purchase more computers with access to library online resources and the Internet, Wi-Fi, new furniture and shelving. Naming opportunities for tax-deductible donations, which will be acknowledged on a plaque in a particular room or piece of furniture, range from a children's chair (\$700) to the program room (\$50,000). Those donating \$1,000 or more will see their names on a plaque prominently displayed in the Branch. A recent book swap netted

an estimated \$4,000 and a silent art auction another \$3,000.

In conjunction with the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Potrero Branch Community Artist Selection Panel chose Gina Telocci to create a piece of art especially for the renovated branch. Telocci, an Oakland-based artist, works in wood and other natural materials to create elegant sculptural pieces.

During the renovation, library service will be available in the bookmobile two afternoons a week, or at the Main, Mission and Mission Bay branches. Preschool story times for children up to five will take place on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in St. Teresa of Avila Church's community room, and the Neighborhood House will host other children's summer programs. For more information about temporary services, visit www.sfpl.org or call 557.4353.

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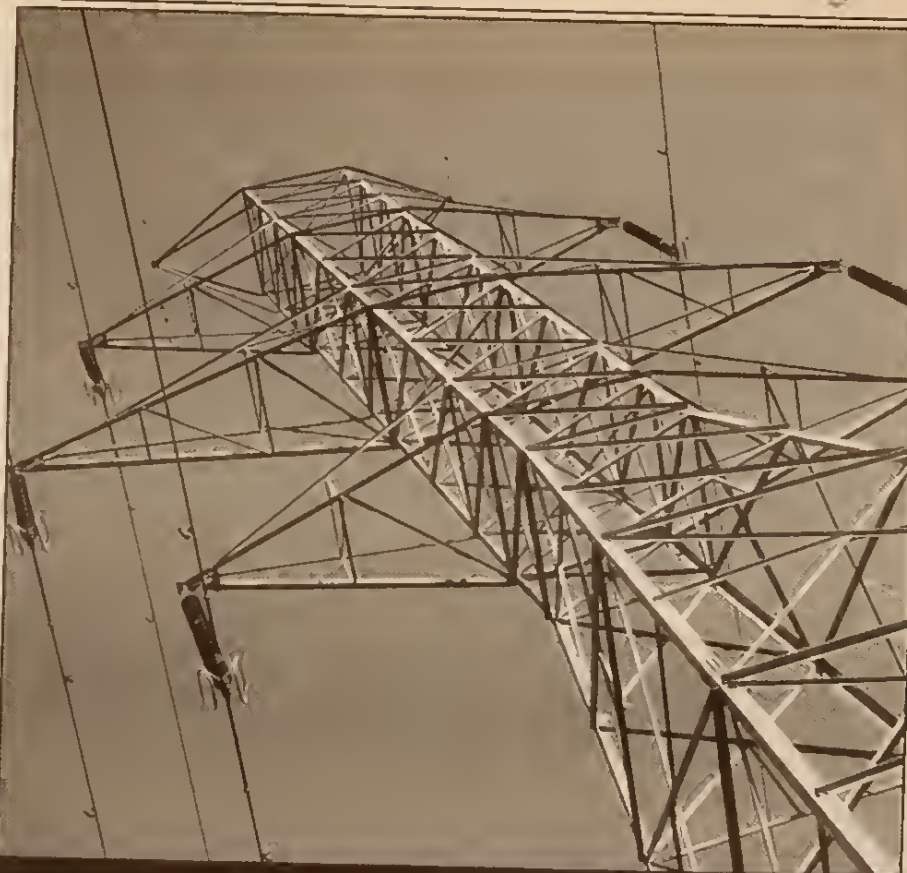
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Peaker Plants

Continued from Front Page

providing in-City generation while closing the facility's largest unit.

San Francisco's goal of being a green-energy leader has always conflicted with the notion of building a fossil-fuel power plant. Civic and community leaders who support the CTs say they do so reluctantly. "I am not supporting the development of the CT project because I am a fan of new power plant development in the City," said District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. "I am supporting this because I must act for the health of my constituents." According to Potrero Power Plant Citizen Task Force member Karen Pierce, the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO), which has mandated the continued operation of the Potrero Power Plant to ensure electric reliability, has refused to accept anything other than the CTs as a way to close the plant. "We insisted for a long time that the CTs be placed in different parts of San Francisco. The ISO never moved. The ISO has had a bias, from day one, that San Francisco was going to generate electricity using some sort of fossil fuel."

Mike Florio, a former Cal-ISO board member, said, "It was quite an effort...to push the energy staff to even look at shutting down a power plant. That's contrary to their DNA to shutdown power plants. They want more power plants, more transmission lines." Several of Cal-ISO's board members have previously or currently work for investor-owned utilities, such as PG&E, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, and Sempra. "Unless [the City's] engineers can convince [Cal-ISO's]

engineers, I think they're probably sticking with what they've got." The two largest transmission lines serving San Francisco are insufficient to meet Cal-ISO's reliability standards in the event of an earthquake or other disaster. However, Cal-ISO has indicated that the half-billion dollar Trans Bay Cable, which will transmit power from the East Bay to San Francisco, will reduce the need for in-City generation, raising the question of whether all the CTs are needed even under the agency's stringent standards.

Joshua Arce, Executive Director of Brightline Defense, believes that Cal-ISO and the SFPUC have colluded to pressure the Board of Supervisors to approve the CTs. "I received public records pursuant to our Sunshine Ordinance that show that the [Cal-ISO letters indicating that the CTs are necessary to close the existing power plant] are actually initiated and drafted by the SFPUC." Cal-ISO's communications "...have been drafted by the same agency that is for some reason intent on building these power plants at any cost," said Arce, referring to the SFPUC. Arce plans to turn this information over to the San Francisco Ethics Commission.

"A study shows that 95 percent of power plants in the United States are sited in low-income, people-of-color neighborhoods," said Barbara George of Women's Energy Matters. According to District 2 Supervisor, Michela Alioto-Pier, "If this were happening in any other district in San Francisco, it would not even be thought of. This would not be considered an option."

According to Dick Ratliffe of the California Energy Commission, his agency, along with the Bay Area

Air Quality Management District and the City and County of San Francisco, performed three health risk assessments, all of which had the same results: the CTs are clean. "The conclusion is that there are no significant health risks posed by this project to the adjacent neighborhoods or any part of San Francisco," Ratliffe said. Alioto-Pier questioned Ratliffe's statement in light of the SFPUC's proposal for enhanced street sweeping to reduce the effects of particulate matter near schools adjacent to the proposed CTs. Ratliffe responded that he couldn't comment on street sweeping.

Proponents claim that the CTs will enable Mirant's plant to close and that the CTs will be shut down once the City meets its energy needs with more benign strategies. But some activists fear the CTs will operate for 30 years or longer. Under the SFPUC's proposed contract, the California Department of Water Resources would buy electricity capacity from the CTs until 2016, after which the City would pay off

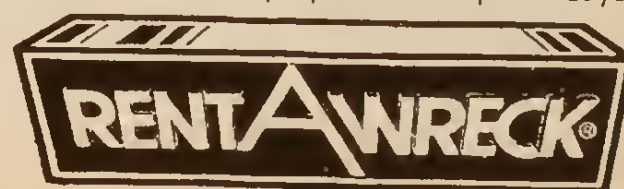
the remaining \$110 million by finding other power purchasers.

But Eric Brooks of the grassroots organization, Our City, sees flaws in this agreement. "PG&E, the biggest such potential customer, has already said, 'No' – largely due to a new state mandate for it to cut its production of new fossil fuel projects. Other potential customers will face the same environmental restrictions over the next two decades.... Our ability to sell natural gas power capacity at a reasonable price will likely collapse, and we will be forced to run the peakers full tilt...to sell enough hard power to meet even the 30 year contract deadline," said Brooks.

"San Francisco's power infrastructure has changed since the peaker project was approved," said Alioto-Pier. With the Trans Bay Cable and Jefferson-Martin Transmission Line, demand management programs, in-City transmission upgrades, and solar programs, some San Franciscans find it hard to believe that much, if any, in-City generation is necessary to retire the Potrero Power Plant.

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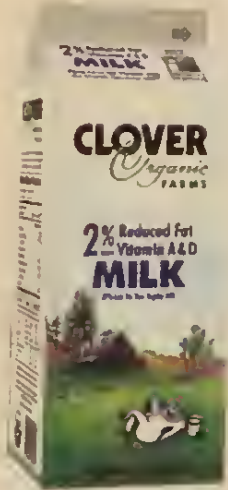


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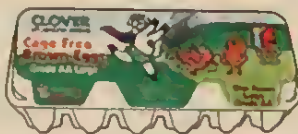
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Reclaiming the Sky

By John Anderson

Earlier this year some Hill residents lost part of their view. The utility wires strung across tall poles that'd been a part of the scenery for more than a century were removed from several northeast slope streets. The wires were taken down; the crossbars with their insulators and other paraphernalia were unbolted and lowered to the ground. Acrobats with chain saws lopped off sections of the poles starting near the top. The remaining stubs were left standing for a few days before trucks carrying powerful cranes arrived to yank the wooden remains from their concrete casings. Though it took Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) several months to dismantle the overhead infrastructure, the action was the culmination of almost two decades of planning and community advocacy.

For many years 18th, 19th, and 20th streets had a high concentration of utility distribution lines, conveying electricity and telecommunications. The tangle of wires seemed to increase over the years while the visual clutter of television antennas disappeared. In the early 1970's, after Interstate 280 was opened, it was discovered that freeway construction may have destabilized the ground under a row of houses on the east side of Pennsylvania between 18th and 22nd streets. The state bought most of the structures thought to be at risk, removed some of them, made changes to the freeway retaining wall - thereby creating the "Hanging Gardens of Potrero Hill" - and sold the remaining structures at bargain prices. In the process utility wires were placed underground, revealing to the community how our streets would look without wires and poles.

In 1992, residents on the north side of the 1200 block of 19th Street launched a campaign to remove wires and poles from the neighborhood. Some advocates were motivated by possible health risks from high voltage wires; others liked the idea of removing a visual blight. The Potrero Hill Homeowners for an Underground District (UGD Number 331) was formed, consisting of 11 members. Three, John Paul Delgado, Robert Schwahn, and Gloria Van Winkle are now deceased; another two, Clifford and Kristine Jennings, moved out of the City. Those that remain to see the fruits of their efforts include Lee Van Winkle, Blanche Thebom - who's still active at 92 - Rollin and Aida Anderson, Ed Lortz,

and this writer.

The committee identified the area on which to focus based on neighborhood interest and City requirements. A simple majority of property owners on a street opting-in qualified that block for inclusion in the District. In 1994 the UGD submitted its petition to underground the distribution system to the San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW approved the project in 1995, followed by San Francisco Board of Supervisor approval in 1997, although funds didn't become available until five years later.

Number 331 was the last UGD to be approved under the then agreement between the City and PG&E to jointly fund undergrounding projects. In addition, largely through then Supervisor Susan Leal's efforts, property owners weren't assessed for the street lighting costs associated with the project, a roughly \$2,000 per parcel expense. PG&E also installed new high-pressure natural gas lines at many of the properties, and a considerable amount of sewer replacement and improvement work was done during the construction of the underground district. Property owners had to pay only for the cost of connecting wires from their respective property to the new underground service, an average cost of \$1,500.

There's now a lot more sky showing on Mississippi and Texas streets between 18th and 20th; on Missouri and Connecticut between 18th and 19th; and on 19th and 20th streets between Pennsylvania and Connecticut. It took a decade and a half, but the result is an improved aesthetic environment, reduced electromagnetic fields, more efficient power conveyance, more attractive and efficient street lights, and upgrades to the City's fire and safety alarm system. In the long-run removal of the wires and poles may encourage the planting of more street trees, creating a greener environment.

There was much rejoicing when electricity, television, and telephone service first came to the Hill in the late-1800s, even though these new-fangled miracles were accompanied by unsightly poles and wires. But now we have a better way. Perhaps over time all existing wires and poles in the community will disappear. With rapid development in Dogpatch and Mission Bay Potrero will continue to change over the next decade; UGD Number 331 has already created a positive and lasting benefit.

Black Rock Spreads the Word About Free Solar



Black Rock Solar donated these solar panels to a school in Gerlach, NV.

By Heather Tirado Gilligan

Tom Price has worried about his carbon footprint for years, but his concern increased substantially after the birth of his first child six months ago. So he sat down in his Potrero Hill apartment where he lives with his daughter Juniper Grace and wife Andie Grace and sketched what would eventually become a plan to bring free solar energy to the neighborhood. "Babies make a lot of laundry, and you don't always have the energy to hang it outside once it's through the washer," Price explained, leaning forward to rest his elbows on the cafe table at Progressive Grounds on Bryant Street.

Like many San Franciscans, Price cares passionately about how his daily choices affect the global environment. But as a former environmental journalist and current president of Black Rock Solar, a Potrero Hill-based nonprofit, Price had the ability to do more than worry about his dryer

use. Black Rock Solar emerged from Price's role as Burning Man Festival's environmental manager last year. "It was quite a challenge to green a fake city in the desert," Price said of his experience.

Price took the used solar panels secured for Burning Man to a school in Nevada. With the help of volunteer labor to attach the panels, and relying on a complex array of tax credits and subsidies, Price created a free and renewable source of energy for the school, and Black Rock Solar was born. Since then, Black Rock has installed solar panels at a number of schools and hospitals in Nevada using free or low-cost labor and materials. Black Rock is also



The Black Rock Solar crew. Photos Courtesy of Black Rock Solar.

helping to provide solar energy to next month's Rothbury Festival in Michigan.

Price attributes Black Rock's success to their unique financing approach to solar power, which

Continued on Page 19

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Potrero Del Sol Skate Park Opens July 4th

By C. Long

San Francisco's second public skateboard facility is set to open July 4th at Potrero Del Sol Park, located at 25th and Utah streets in the Mission District's southeast outskirts. The skate park will provide much-needed relief to local skaters tired of dodging traffic, thugs and broken glass at the usual street spots, while nearby food, gas and convenience stores can expect a modest bump in their revenues, especially during the

stairs, gaps, ledges and hills. In reference to footage of City native Tommy Guerrero creatively utilizing the nooks and crannies of Sunset neighborhoods and downtown thoroughfares in Powell-Peralta's 1985 smash hit *Future Primitive*, SFGate.com's Culture Blog declared the City, "A natural skate park."

Conflicts with authority and commercial interests come with skateboarding. Skate parks are often proposed as the solution to

"The cops are already telling us to go there and the park's not even open," said Zak Gonzalez, 24-year-old Mission resident, lifelong skateboarder and warehouse chief for the Mission-based Highgrade Distribution, manufacturers of skateboards, accessories and a growing line of ecologically conscious apparel. Gonzalez added that he thought the skate park was well designed, "The park is super sick, it's got lots of good transitions with lots of skaters in the area...the only other downside is that the other park projects have to be completed before we can skate." The other park projects include a curb ramp and parking stall at San Bruno Avenue, replacement of the bathroom doors, and drainage improvements at the playing field at the park's northwest corner.

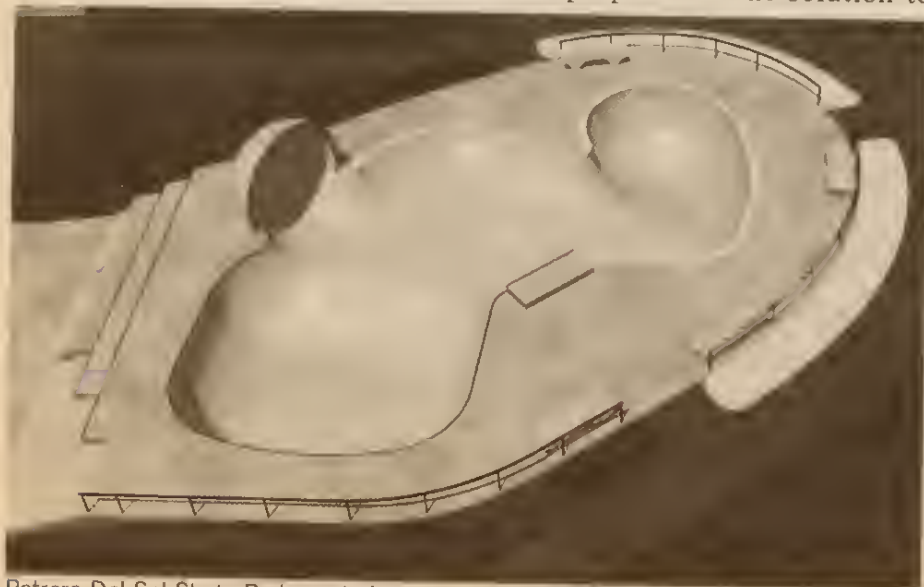
"What I like about street skating," added Jensen, is "I just like being out and being a part of the chaos in the streets. It just feels good to be out like that, especially in San Francisco. Parks are fun for practice, but even if there's 500 parks I'm still going to street skate." This author personally skated EMB in the early 1990s and can testify that the original Justin Herman Plaza's architecture was far more conducive to the evolution of skateboarding than either of San Francisco's existing skate parks.

According to Andy Caulfield, 28-year-old team manager and front man for the internationally

successful FTC skate shop on Haight Street, "I don't think there's anything bad about it at all. It's all good. It's a great start for SF. Hopefully there will be more parks to come."

Although situated in a neighborhood with the City's highest concentration of children under 18 years old, with more than 19,000 kids living within a mile of the park, the location is nonetheless not centrally located to the skateboarding community. Many Westside skateboarders would like to see a skateboard park inside Golden Gate Park. "There's no reason Golden Gate Park shouldn't have had a skate park years ago," said Rodney VanB of the Richmond District's 15-years-strong Purple Skunk skateboard shop. "It's one of the most famous parks in the world, and it would keep young kids living in the avenues from having to take public transportation somewhere unfamiliar and dangerous." Plans are underway to incorporate street skating plazas in Golden Gate Park and at the Duboce Street underpass using Proposition 40 funds; skateboarders and interested citizens can get involved in that effort by contacting the San Francisco Skateboarding Association, www.sfskateboarding.org.

The new skate park opens July 4th and is accessible by the 33 Muni, 25th Street, or the Potrero Avenue or Ceaser Chavez Street westbound 101 freeway exits. Admission is free.



Potrero Del Sol Skate Park rendering courtesy of San Francisco Recreation & Park Department.

summertime and on weekends.

San Francisco has been an international epicenter of skateboard culture and industry for two decades. Over the years the City has been home to dozens of skateboard manufacturers, and is arguably the skateboard publishing capital of the world. San Francisco originally drew skaters' attention in the early-1990s through the combination of the yet-to-be-renovated Union Square, the Embarcadero's Justin Herman Plaza and a pack of gifted local kids, including Henry Sanchez, Jovontae Turner, Mike Carroll, Drake Jones and James Kelch. Plan B's 1992 *Questionable* video, along with subsequent video releases from World Industries, catapulted the City and the kids at Justin Herman Plaza, known as "Embarcadero" or simply "EMB" to skaters, into the international skateboarding spotlight.

Aside from its world-famous plazas, San Francisco itself is a veritable treasure trove of skateable architecture and landscape, including unique residential areas and a robust Financial District made all the more amenable to skateboarding with

such conflicts, which draws mixed reactions from skateboarders. While most skateboarders support the construction of public skate parks, many feel that over-reliance upon them can lead to the criminalization of street skating, which isn't illegal unless specific legislation has been adopted making it so. A skate park gives authorities a place to restrict skateboarding. However, the City's architecture and landscape is often far more appealing to skateboarders than the limited designs and shoddy construction of many of the state's skate parks.

Many skaters feel that skate parks are antithetical to the spirit of skateboarding. "It's kind of offensive to be caged up like that," said Travis Jensen, a 29-year-old author, skateboarder and City resident who pens the City Sports column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Jensen notes that although the new skate park is well-designed and gives skateboarders a safe, family-friendly and hassle-free place to skate, it also provides ample ground for law enforcement to crackdown on street skating, an observation already confirmed by local skateboarders.

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Kids on the Block

By Stacey Bartlett

Isla Ferguson, 4.5 years, says, "I think it will be a little strange at my new school because I won't know any of my friends, and they'll know I'm not from Texas. But I will tell them I live in Potrero Hill." Isla and her parents Natalie Freeburg and Brian Ferguson leave in July for a year-long adventure in Austin, Texas. Isla thanks all the kids and the merchants for being her friends. All y'all take care, y'hear?



Sydney Isabella Gill took her first solo steps on April 7th. As of this print, she's still not walking on her own. She enjoys holding onto others for support and gives lots of hugs and kisses to big brother Josh.



Uno, dos, tres! Annabel Bay Bartlett celebrates her third birthday on June 15th. Mama, Daddy, Henry and Black Kitty wish her "Feliz Cumpleanos".

Sara Moss turns seven on June 30th, and will be celebrating with a cake made by her former kindergarten teacher and a blow-out house party.



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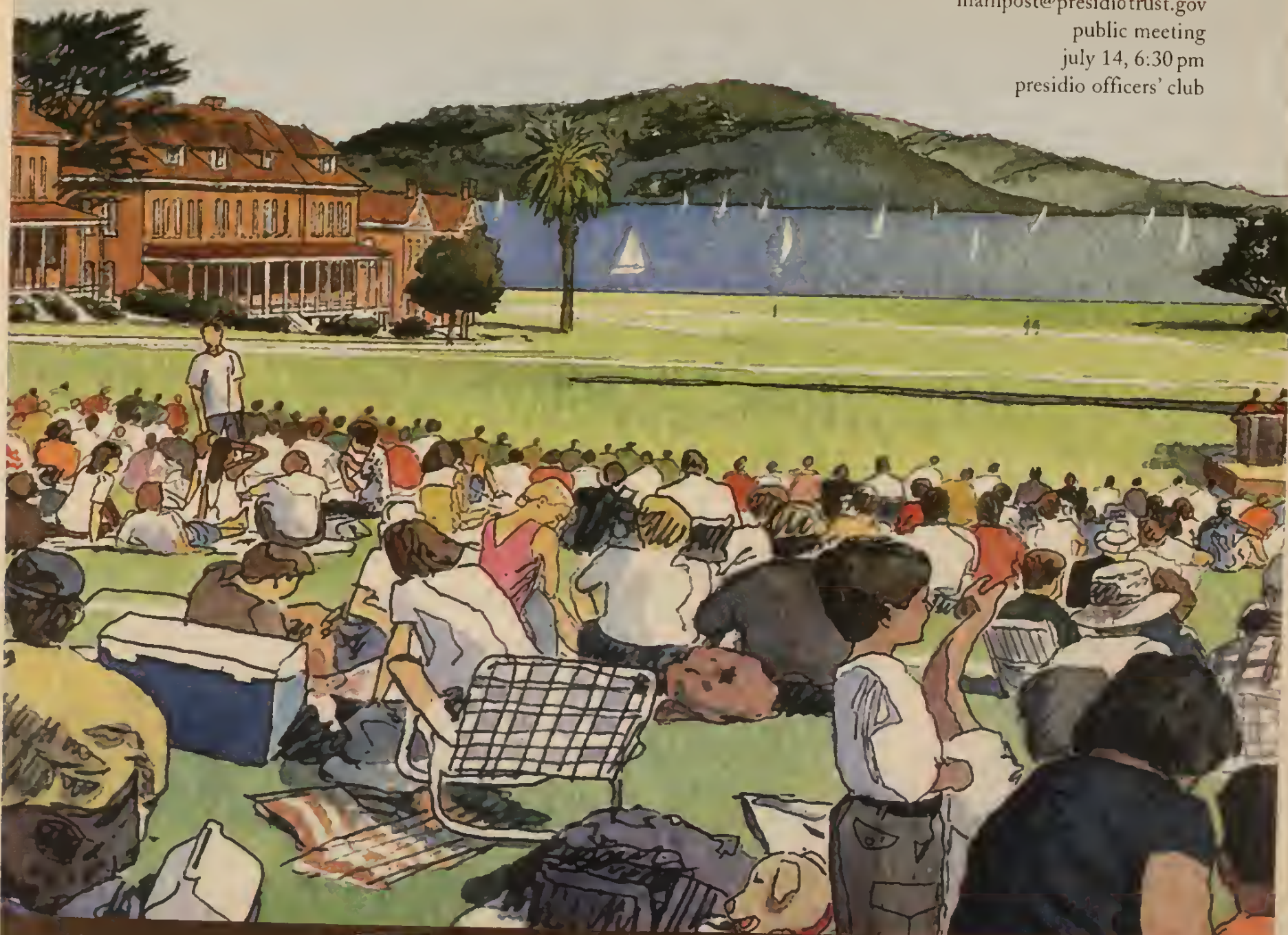
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Ballroom Dancing Remains on the Hill

By Christina Li

One, two, three – One, two three – One, two, three. The instructor counts the rhythm to the waltz as a dancer elegantly glides across the floor. Though many Hill residents were disappointed when long-time neighbor Metronome Ballroom departed the community last year, they will be gratified to know that ballroom dancing has not left the neighborhood altogether.

With its urban, artsy, loft appeal, the recently renovated space formerly occupied by the Metronome Ballroom, is now home to Cheryl Burke Dance. The new dance studio fits in perfectly with Potrero Hill's flourishing environs. Located at 17th and De Haro streets, Cheryl Burke Dance celebrated its grand opening two months ago with a fundraiser for Mayor Gavin Newsom's Shape Up San Francisco Initiative. The event was attended by Cheryl Burke, the studio's namesake, who's a Bay Area native, two-time Emmy nominee and two-time champion on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*. Other celebrities at the event included her former dancing partner Drew Lachey; current partner Cristián de la Fuente; Jerry Rice, and Mayor Newsom.

With the 17-year-old Metronome struggling financially, and owner

Bram Morris ready to retire, Cheryl Burke, her mother Sherri, and Michael Reeves decided to purchase the Metronome because they didn't want to lose San Francisco's last ballroom. "San Francisco was lacking a really good ballroom school. Most of the smaller ballroom schools in the San Francisco area had pretty much dissolved, and this was one of the few left in the City. We thought it was so significant that we kept a really good ballroom school in San Francisco," said Reeves. According to Sherri Burke, "We wanted to make sure that San Francisco continued to have a place, a venue for dancing - ballroom dancing especially. We feel there has to be a place for San Franciscans to express art in some form or another through dancing."

Cheryl Burke Dance hopes to "promote physical fitness through dance." According to Reeves, dancing "is the second best exercise to swimming because you're using the whole body, not just parts of it." The dance studio offers more than 60 classes a week, including waltz, ballet, salsa, belly dancing and Argentine tango. And Cheryl Burke Dance instructors work to tailor their courses to their clients' needs. "Rather than have people come to us, we try to develop a curriculum around what people are asking

for. We're always inventing and reinventing ourselves into what the public wants now," said Reeves.

On Friday, June 13th, Cheryl Burke will welcome aspiring dancers to her studio, in an event that includes

a Latin dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., followed by a social dance party at 8 p.m. The alcohol-free gathering will be held every Friday night thereafter. "We will introduce them to three dances, and then they can stay and dance afterwards," said Reeves. For more information: 252.9000; www.cherylburkedance.com.



A three-unit building, including one two-bedroom flat, and two two-bedrooms-plus-den, with a three-car garage has been proposed for construction at 1011 Tennessee Street. The building would be 40 feet tall, with roof decks proposed on the fourth floor at both the front and rear.

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By David Matsuda

My team climbs into heavily armored vehicles for the trip northward along the banks of the Tigris River. The convoy slowly snakes along the river's edge behind a detachment of oddly shaped vehicles that search for Improvised Explosive Devices and Explosively Formed Penetrators. A sniper's shot dents the bullet proof glass on one of our vehicles as we enter the small remote village of Shinsoi on the far end of our area of operation.

Our platoon reaches the village center where we set up a temporary base in an abandoned Ba'ath party headquarters and prepare for the first Abnaa al Iraq (Sons of Iraq or SoI) pay day. A neighborhood watch with guns, the SoI began in al-Anbar province when al-Qa'eda killed a sheik who opposed their blatant disregard for tribal customs. Thus was born the Sahwa or awakening movement, as tribes rose from the drunken stupor of jihadism and began to struggle against al-Qae'da.

The SoI took up arms, manned checkpoints and, with their local knowledge, arrested terrorist sympathizers and foreign fighters in droves. Sometimes they exacted tribal justice; on other occasions they turned their former terrorist allies over to Coalition Forces (CF). CF pays the largely Sunni SoI as a way to stimulate local economies, maintain security, and eventually to incorporate them into the Iraqi police, army and civilian reconstruction brigades. In this way the CF is helping the Sunni's regain power and resources that are equal to the Shi'a before the United States departs Iraq.

After a restless night in the remains of a bombed-out building we breakfast on "Meals Ready to Eat" (MREs) - which the more cynical among us claim stands for Meals Rejected by Everyone - and move to the courtyard of the Na'hia, or

village government building. There we set up chairs and watch as SoI stream by to collect their pay. All appears to be proceeding smoothly until several SoI begin to complain bitterly. Representatives from the al-Habibi, the village's dominant tribe, try to calm the disgruntled SoI, to no avail.

Muhammad, my Iraqi Interpreter, whose grandfather was a sheik, whose father is a sheik, and who will someday be a sheik himself, understands tribal ways and convinces the disgruntled SoI to talk. It seems that the al-Habibi sheik had promised the CF proportional representation of all the tribes in Shinsoi village. But on pay-day evening all the SoI checkpoint rosters were sent to al-Habbi Sheik Ali Babba who switched the names of those who stood guard for relatives and friends who'd never even seen a checkpoint.

The next day Sheik Omar, Sheik Sharif and other representatives of the disaffected tribes come to talk. Sheik Omar's tribe had 220 SoI and Sheik Sharif's had 60 SoI before Ali Babba pulled a bait and switch and left them with respectively 60 and 5. The scam unfolds over successive pay days until even people from Ali Babba's tribe break ranks and come forward to say that they were excluded from the rolls.

The platoon captain is unsuccessful in his initial negotiations with Sheik Ali Babba so he asks Muhammad and me to advise him in a grievance meeting with all the village sheiks. Muhammad and I know that "contract exclusions and tribal proportionality" are key negotiating points, and that Sheik Ali Babba will do anything to keep these topics out of the discussion.

An artful negotiator, the Sheik begins the meeting by stating that there'd be no reconciliation, because

Going to War

Iraqi Army soldiers had touched his genitals when they frisked him, a violation of tribal propriety. I whisper in the Captain's ear that he should make a short apology; address the Sheik's claim by saying that CF would co-monitor check points so this violation of aadat (tribal custom) wouldn't happen again; and to bring discussions back to the contract.

We resume our discussion of the excluded SoI, but Sheik Babba again tries to side track the negotiations by claiming that those who'd been paid would return to al-Qa'eda if CF took back their money. The young captain was about to take the bait when I firmly grab his arm and tell him to say, "Ever since we came to Shinsoi people have been telling us about the

horrors al-Qa'eda unleashed on the villagers: the countless loved ones lost to murders, rapes and torture. If these men rejoined al-Qa'eda the CF and the just people of Shinsoi would again resist them and drive them out of the village."

The verbal jousting match goes on until Sheik Ali Babba tires and agrees to negotiate. The captain said the entire contract would be pulled unless all of the tribes reach a consensus agreement about proportional representation. Hours later the sheiks emerge from the Na'hia building with an equitable agreement. A sheep is slaughtered in our honor by the reinstated tribes, we're offered four wives, and we feast till we can eat no more.

David Matsuda returned safely to his Texas Street home late last month. See next month's View for news on his re-entry to the States.

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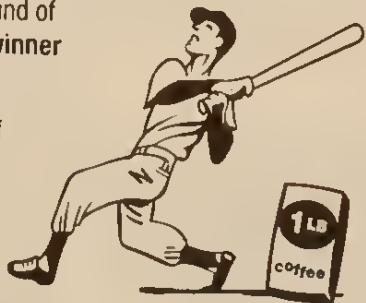
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PACIFIC UNION



Hill Stalwarts

Continued from Front Page



Eve Milton.

"just disappeared one day." They'd been incarcerated in one of the state's many internment camps simply because they were of Japanese descent. It was "a very ugly feeling when we found out later where they went, and their treatment," said Passen.

Passen attended San Francisco State University, but dropped out "because I just wasn't ready." It was there that she met her husband Joe Passen, a union organizer and longshoreman, "who worked on the waterfront until he couldn't anymore." The Passens shared a passion for progressive politics, helping to organize everyone from downtown office workers to taxi cab drivers. They rallied and marched until the McCarthy Era made things difficult for activists, driving them to move to Los Angeles to escape red-baiting, beatings and death threats.

After their son, Marc, graduated from high school, the Passens returned to San Francisco. In 1969 they settled on Potrero Hill near artist friends who'd migrated from North Beach.

Passen quickly sought out community groups to join. She found that all roads led to one person: Enola Maxwell, who'd helped stop the construction of a freeway through Golden Gate Park

as a member of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council. Passen and Maxwell became fast friends, and together were a force to be reckoned with. They fought against the "worst kinds of white supremacists" to help install Maxwell as the "first black and first woman" director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, known as the Nabe. Together they grew the Nabe into Potrero Hill's hub and conscience. Passen's son attended pre-school at the Nabe and later held his wedding ceremony there. When Passen's husband, Joe, died in 1992 "there was a huge event at the Nabe, Nancy Pelosi came down. So much life takes place there, it's the core of the community," said Passen.

Passen has always been a news junkie. Inspired by Lois Lane she helped start Hills & Dales, the eight by 10 inch mimeographed predecessor to the *View*. An inherent organizer, Ruth overhauled the "bulletin" and helped turn it into a professionally printed paper, written and proofed by volunteers, many of whom were Hill residents who worked at the *San Francisco Chronicle*. With its new moniker the *Potrero View* came into its own, complete with investigative reports on development plans, crime, mom-and-pop businesses and even a gossip column called "The Nose Knows." Simultaneously Passen was working at the Nabe, helping to create programs for children, youth, handicapped individuals and seniors.

The *View* served both as a neighborhood voice and as a galvanizing force for positive change and civic betterment. When the neighborhood needed more police to stem crime; a health clinic for addicts the elderly and the poor; new green space; or the library not to close down, the paper printed articles which lit fires under legislators, leading to solutions. Along with her friend Eve Milton, Passen helped to establish the Potrero Hill Health Center, also known as the Caleb Clark

Clinic, after a beloved community activist. After only a year in its new incarnation, the paper won the Robert Krauskopf Memorial Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Passen's involvement in organizations- from women's peace and freedom groups and farmworker unions to the Potrero Hill Democratic Club- built friendships and gained respect from the City's political movers and shakers, including the Burton family and Nancy Pelosi. She's been honored often for her community work, receiving awards from the Koshland Civic Unity program, the Potrero Boosters' Neighborhood Association, and even a commendation by Speaker of the House Pelosi in the *Congressional Record*.

Eve Milton: A Half-Century of Community Commitment

The wind howls eerily outside Eve Milton's aging Craftsman-style bungalow home at the top of Carolina Street. "Do you know the wind has not stopped blowing hard like that for six days," she said. "It means something, about what is going to happen, it's an omen of sorts." Perhaps the wind was wishing Milton a happy birthday: she turned 88 years old on May 14.

Milton, who's lived with her children and relatives on Potrero Hill since 1959, is someone "people should know about, not only because she's 88, but because she has done so much for the community," said Passen. As a divorced, single mom with two

Continued on Page 17

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Hill Stalwarts

Continued from Page 16

young sons, Milton moved to the Hill nearly a half-century ago. It was a time when social activism had yet to enter the popular vocabulary, rabble-rouser was a dirty word and the Hill was a magnet for blue collar workers, Russian immigrants and African-Americans from the south, who worked in the nearby shipyards.

As a young woman, Milton was a labor organizer, taught literacy to coal miners' children in poverty-stricken Appalachia and fought racism. She started out as an artist-weaver-writer, attending avant-garde Black Mountain College in North Carolina, before moving on to Highlander Folk School in Tennessee and later St. Louis where she and her husband, David Hepburn Milton, helped organize the meatpackers union.

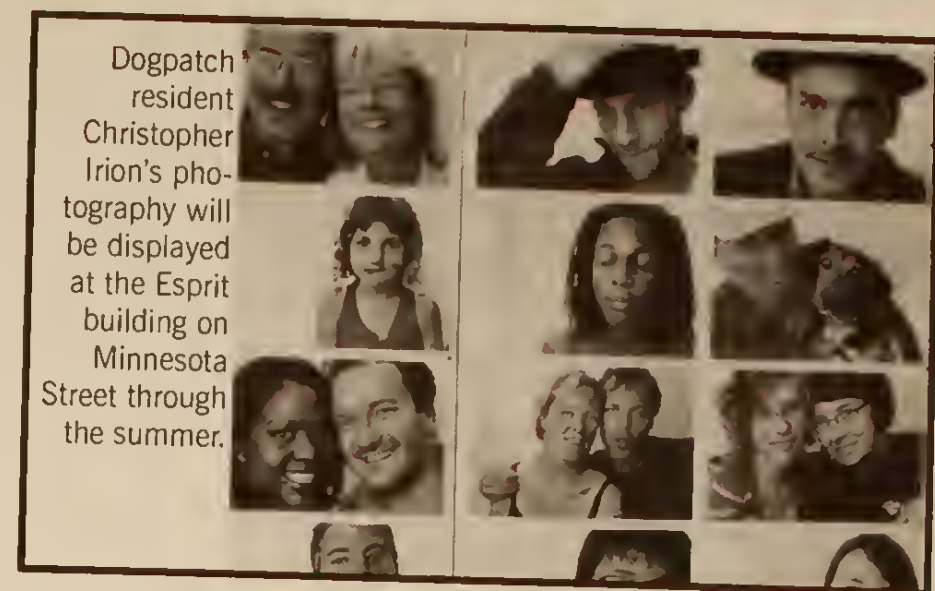
One of three children born to Chaim Zhitlovsky, a Russian-born "Yiddishist," scholar, and Trotsky contemporary and Indonesian-Dutch physician Nora Van Leeuwen, Milton was raised in a household full of intellectual achievement. Zhitlovsky's socialist leanings led to his expulsion from a number of countries, including the United States and Holland; the family moved often and lived throughout Europe. They ultimately settled in New York, where, while living in an aunt's Manhattan apartment, Eve met her husband-to-be, David.

Together they pursued their

political passions as Communists and labor organizers. It was a dangerous period for anyone associated with Communism and unions; they were considered the "enemy," frequently investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "The local authorities tried to destroy us in every way," said Milton. She and her husband lost jobs or couldn't get work. In search of a more welcoming community they left New York, their marriage broke up, and they landed on Potrero Hill, where ex-husband David had family. He moved into one house on Carolina Street and Eve and sons, Christopher and Tagliaferro "Tolliver," lived in another.

Among Milton's many accomplishments was helping get the Hill's first affordable, public health center built, known as the Caleb Clark Clinic. Milton was involved in the women's peace movement, attending many anti-war rallies. She met Passen while helping to establish the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, and was instrumental in creating after-school mentoring, tutoring, breakfast for children and childcare programs. With other "activists who were Mexican, Chinese, you name it...we provided comfort to those who needed it. Poverty is expensive and time-consuming," said Milton.

When Milton first arrived on the Hill, the community was home to a diverse, if segregated, population. "The Italians had the northwest corner, while the Russians held the southwest corner," she laughs. "The projects were initially built



Dogpatch resident Christopher Irion's photography will be displayed at the Esprit building on Minnesota Street through the summer.

as military housing before the war. After the war, blacks from the south and southwest who worked at the shipyards stayed and they turned into projects."

These days, Eve doesn't do much weaving, even though people have wanted to put her delicate loomed creations into museums. She is contacted every time an anniversary program at Black Mountain College is held; television crews regularly come by to film her and her friend, renowned Japanese-American artist Ruth Asawa. Milton readily admits to having survived six strokes and bemoans their effects: "You can't imagine the damage that does to your memory." She still has energy, though, spending her days reading newspapers, writing letters and designing wall hangings in her head that she plans to weave some day on the large loom in her bedroom by the window. Her dog, Sandy, a male Lab

mix named "after the color of the sand on the beach between Belgium and England," keeps her steady company.

Her son, Tolliver, a merchant seaman since he was 16 yearsold, said his mother "...is passionate about community; revered, loved and respected deeply by those who know her, for her art, her total commitment to people as a whole. She's lived in this house for 49 years and taken care of many, when things were tough. She's a mainstay, a pillar and helped make Potrero Hill what it is."

Grandson Yoshi, derived from the Yiddish name Joshua - a name inspired by the doctor who delivered him - brings a plain, crumpled apron over for this reporter to examine. "This is my grandmother's and it's what she's all about." Written on the apron are the words, "My country, I'll love it forever...but not all the time."

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Police Blotter

May 16, Robbery, with a Gun, 20th Street: Officers Teper and McGuire responded to a call regarding a robbery with a gun. The officers spoke with two victims who stated that they'd pulled their truck over when a suspect walked up and lifted his shirt, revealing a gun in his waistband. The suspect demanded money; the victims gave him all their cash and their cell phones. The suspect then told the victims to drive away quickly or he'd shoot them. The victims drove away and then went around the block to see if the suspect was still there. Officers searched the area for the suspects and witnesses, without success.

May 14, Robbery with a Gun, DeHaro and 18th streets: Officers Guzman and Gummo responded to a call regarding a robbery with a gun. The officers met with three victims who told officers that they'd all been robbed at gunpoint by two unknown males who'd pulled guns out of their jackets and robbed them of their belongings. Sargent Hagan, of the plainclothes unit, detained a vehicle on Mariposa and San Bruno streets with the suspects inside. The victims positively identified the suspects, who were placed under arrest. All of the victims' belongings were returned to them. No one was injured during the incident.

May 12, Carjacking with a Gun, Aggravated Assault, Madera and Wisconsin streets: Officer Traw and

Field Training Officer Robinson responded to a call about a shooting. The officers found a paramedic on the scene treating the victim, who was bleeding from a gun shot wound to her ankle. Officers spoke with three witnesses who told them that they'd seen a woman standing at the trunk of a car, a suspect walk up to the woman and shot her once in the ankle. The woman was taken to San Francisco General Hospital and treated. The suspect was not located and no arrest was made.

May 4, Homicide with a Gun, Connecticut Street: Officers Chan and Guzman responded to a call regarding a shooting at the 1000 block of Connecticut. The victim had been shot multiple times and been brought to San Francisco General Hospital's emergency room. Officers Chan and Guzman responded to SFGH, where they were told that the victim had died as a result of his wounds. No witnesses or suspects were located.

May 1, Robbery with a Gun, Kansas Street: Officers Kavanaugh and Lee responded to a call about a street robbery. The officers spoke to the victim, who stated that he was parked outside his home when a suspect approached him from behind and told him to give him all his stuff, while pointing a black semi-automatic weapon. The victim gave the suspect his belongings. The suspect fled the area on foot. Officers searched the neighborhood, but were unable to find the suspect.

Eastern Neighborhoods

Continued from Page 4

allowing for life science offices and laboratories. In addition, an Innovative Industries district would be identified long Seventh Street, between Berry and 17th streets, including Daggett Triangle, at the corner of 16th and Seventh streets, as well as in a small part of the Central Waterfront. Bioscience-related office space would be allowed in this district, but not laboratories. The Planning Department acknowledged that it's not clear what office types would serve as "innovative industries," explaining that the zoning designation was designed to be flexible.

Tony Kelly, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association president, questioned the need for the two special use districts, and suggested that 16th Street be designated as a university-oriented zone, focusing on student housing and services, given the fact that three colleges are located in the area. Kelly also noted that the area is surrounded by upwards of nine million square feet of planned and existing office space and that more office space is unnecessary. Keith Goldstein, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB) president, echoed Kelly's concerns about the special use districts, stating that PHAMB would like to see a neighborhood-serving commercial corridor along 17th Street.

According to Kelly the Boosters are generally supportive of the rezoning proposals, but were looking for improvements. "The implementation of affordable housing and open space and transit improvements is really weak. We need a real program to preserve industrial job space," he said. In some places "Planning is trying to raise the value of land, as opposed to addressing the needs of all of these industries. That is not smart growth, that is a pyramid scheme," he stated.

In response, several property

owners spoke out in favor of keeping the zoning for PDR areas flexible so that they could change their property's use based on economic demand. Steve Vettel, a land use attorney, said he supports the proposed rezoning, and thinks the plans have improved over the years. He encouraged "Flexible incubator space [with a] relatively undefined mix of uses." Robert Meyers, a planning consultant, asserted that the PDR zoning would be too restrictive; if a business in the area becomes successful it wouldn't be allowed to grow under the proposed zoning and would have to leave. "PDR sounds like a sure fire plan for vacancy and economic stagnation," he said.

Kepa Askenasy, a Missouri Street resident, called for more, rather than less, zoning specifics so as to protect existing businesses in the area. "We in the community need open space, small footprint office space for design businesses and the like and affordable housing," she said. "We need zoning that will protect our existing small industrial businesses. We need open vistas from our public streets, we need parking, and reliable and well routed public transit. We need safe streets with proper sidewalks and street lights, and places to walk our dogs and places for our kids to play with other kids. We need places for teenagers to hang out, and the elderly to feel safe walking to at night. We need an affordable sandwich shop, and a shoe repair place, and watch repair place, and off street bicycle parking. Those are businesses that cannot afford the price of high tech office space. We need community based planning, not developer based planning."

The Planning Commission didn't immediately alter its proposals as a result of the meetings, although changes are likely to come given the range of feedback from the Commissioners and the public. The entire Board of Supervisors will ultimately need to approve the plans, most likely before the fall.



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GETTING INVOLVED



Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **June 10** at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **June 24**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **June 10**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **June 3**, 6 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next Meeting: **June 3**.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.

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Black Rock Solar

Continued from page 10

remains a high-cost energy source compared with conventional fuels. "Solar power hasn't made any sense economically," Price explained. "But if you're going to address climate change, solar power has to be accessible to everybody. That means we're not interested in making solar power cheaper," Price said. "We want to make it free."

After his daughter's birth Price turned his attention to bringing free solar energy to Potrero Hill. But applying the model he uses for nonprofit institutions to homes presented a new challenge. Renters have no incentive to make capital improvements to the buildings where they live temporarily; landlords typically don't pay energy bills for their rentals, and as a result are loath to make a large capital investment to help renters save on their energy bills.

But Price found that until the end of the year existing federal and state rebates and tax credits would make it worthwhile for property owners to install photovoltaic systems. In addition, if the San Francisco Board

of Supervisors approves a special City credit to install solar, which would provide additional funds for Potrero Hill under an environmental justice incentive program, local property owners could essentially install solar for free.

Key to the success of Price's plan is the cooperation of tenants, who must agree to pay the monthly average costs of their annual electricity bill to their landlord. The payments would cover the capital costs that building owners would have to pay up front to install the panels.

Price's calculations convinced his landlord that installing solar panels was the way to go, and Price was happy to hand-over an average of what he used to pay to Pacific Gas and Electric Company to help defray installation costs. Soon, the three units in Price's building on Kansas Street will be powered by low-cost solar panels.

Price hopes that other Potrero Hill building owners and tenants will likewise install photovoltaic systems before public sector incentives expire at the end of this year. "I hope people do steal this idea," Price said. "It's not about whether or not we do it. It's about getting it done."

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June 1, 5-7

Opera: *Mordake*

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Through June 14

Theater: *The Breast of Sherry Glaser*

This play features a trio of outrageous characters who all challenge the status quo. Miguel De Cervantes (last seen in 2006 in Glaser's critically acclaimed run of OH MY GODDESS!) opens the evening with a call for a shift in the male archetype and paradigm. He's followed by Mother Superior, an evangelical, spiritual leader who has questions for the Lord and a mandate for a mighty prayer, which includes audience participation. Tickets \$15 to \$35 sliding scale. 8 p.m., The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. Information: 826.5750; themarsh.org.

Through July 12

Theater: *Buried Child*

From its darkly humorous opening to an implosive final act, *Buried Child*, a play by Sam Shepard, examines the corrosive effects of a long-held secret in a family ravaged by guilt and shame. In 1979 *Buried Child* won the first Pulitzer Prize for Drama ever awarded to a play premiering Off-Broadway. Tickets \$30. 8 p.m., Actors Theatre of San Francisco, 855 Bush Street. Information: 345.1287; www.actors theatresf.org.

June 3

Farley's: Election Day

Farley's wants you to vote. Receive a free beverage upon display of your "I voted" sticker. Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545.

June 5- August 23

Photography: RongRong & inri; Alan B. Stone; Chris McCaw

This summer, SF Camerawork presents three new photography exhibitions including *Ruins to Renewal: Works by RongRong & inri*, the first Bay Area showing of work by this pioneering avant-garde Beijing-based duo; *Senses of Place*, a historical exhibition guest-curved by celebrated art historian and author David Deitcher that examines the life and work of gay Canadian photographer Alan B. Stone; and *Sunburn*, a solo exhibition of the work of emerging, local artist Chris McCaw. Entrance \$5. SF Camerawork, 657 Mission Street. Information: 512.2020; www.sfcamerawork.org.

June 5-14

Theater: *Trap Door*

Inspired by a dream, composer Lisa Scola Prosek's new opera tells the story of Private Able, his experiences in Iraq, and his homecoming to the United States where he's on trial for shooting an unarmed Iraqi man. Composed in Bel Canto style as classic, dark, surreal comedy, with Commedia Dell'Arte direction by Jim Cave, the opera examines the daily routines of an American soldier, his interaction with the independent contractors, the media, his fellow soldiers, the "enemy", and his attempts at finding meaning in it all.

Tickets \$20. 8 p.m., The Lab, 2948 16th Street. Information: 864.8855; www.thelab.org.

June 5-29

Theater: *Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*

Golden Thread Productions presents the world premiere *Jihad Jones and the Kalashnikov Babes*, the latest play from acclaimed Arab-American playwright, Yussef El Guindi. Directed by Mark Routhier, the comedy follows Ashraf, an Arab-American actor who's offered a part in a film by Hollywood's most sought after director. However, it's the part of a machine gun-strapping terrorist. Barry, his agent, tries to convince him that the film is a satire but when that strategy fails, he resorts to every trick in the book to convince his client to take this chance of a lifetime that could make him a millionaire. Tickets \$25. Thursday to Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sun 5 p.m, Thick House 1695 18th Street. Information: 401.8081; www.goldenthread.org.

June 7-29

Theater: San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival

2008 marks the 30th Anniversary of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, and in celebration of this landmark occasion 50 master musicians and dancers from around the world join 500 Northern California artists on the Festival stage. This year's event will be comprised of virtuoso performances from more than 20 cultures, from Hawaii to Haiti, each accompanied by live music. Tickets \$22 to \$46. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon. Information: 392.4400; www.worldartswest.org.

June 8

Athletic Event: 28th Annual Accenture Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon

Hundreds of top athletes from around the world will take over San Francisco's streets and Bay waters for the 28th Annual Accenture Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. Featuring an icy cold 1.5 mile swim from Alcatraz Island to the San Francisco shoreline, an 18 mile hilly bike ride through the Presidio, and an eight mile trail run through Golden Gate Recreational Area, this high profile athletic event showcases the City's beauty. Fans will not want to miss this world-class sporting event at the Marina Green where they can see the swim start and end, the athlete transition areas and the finish line. 8 a.m. race starts, Marina Green, St. Francis Yacht Club. Information: www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com.

June 12-28

Theater: *Strange Travel Suggestions*

Due to overwhelming demand, The Marsh is delighted to announce that Jeff Greenwald's *Strange Travel Suggestions* will be returning for three weeks of additional performances. They play is a series of improvised monologues inspired by the vagaries of wanderlust. Audience members step onto the stage and spin a huge, colorful Wheel of Fortune. Greenwald never knows which tales he is going to tell — and the audience embarks on this expedition with him, from one spin to the next, as partner and traveling companion. The author of five best-selling travel books, Oakland-based Greenwald, draws from 30 years of travels for his stories. Tickets \$15 to \$35 sliding. Thursday/Friday 8

p.m.; Saturday 5 p.m., The Marsh 1062 Valencia Street. Information: 826.5750; www.themarsh.org.

June 13-27

Children: Fantastic Friday at Crissy Field

Crissy Field is a magical and safe place for toddlers to explore the outdoors with their five senses and to develop a lasting appreciation for living things. For three Fridays this summer Crissy Field participants will explore the National Park through fun hands-on activities and games designed to engage toddlers with the nature. \$10 per child per day. 10 a.m. to noon, Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason. Information: 561.7752; www.crissyfield.org.

Theater: *Attack of the Killer B Movies*

This trio of deadly 8-movies performed as theater—*The Blob*, *The Birds*, and *The Bad Seed*—are brought to life by an intrepid acting ensemble, and 'streamlined' by San Francisco playwright Sean Owens (Best Comic Playwright, *SF Weekly*). Equal parts camp and cunning, each of these film classics exudes lurid excess, as well as astute insights on taboos and terrors, balancing the satiric with the sensational, the cliché and the clever. Tickets \$20. Thursday to Saturday 8 and 10 p.m.; Sunday 7 and 9 p.m., Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy Street. Information: 673.3847; www.theexit.org.

June 14

Open Mike Comedy: Farley's

Hosted by Liz Grant, open mike comedy will be at Farley's every second and fourth Saturdays. Discover new and veteran comics in San Francisco's hoping comedy scene as they try new material at the only open mike in the City on Saturdays. Newbies warmly welcomed! Sign-ups at 7:15 pm, show 7:30- to 9:30 pm. Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545.

June 15

Live Music: Fathers Day Concert by 'Presidents Breakfast'

Recently returning from Berlin, Presidents Breakfast performs a musical salute to Dads. And Farley's annual tradition of honoring dads continues: bring dad in for a free coffee drink of his choice. Music starts at 2 p.m., Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545.

June 16-19

Film: Another Hole in the Head Film Festival

SF Indie fest unleashes ghosts, madmen, monsters, and futuristic merriment as part of this alternative film festival. Tickets: \$10.50. Roxie Film Center, 3117 16th Street. Information: 820.3907; www.sfindie.com.

June 19-29

Film: Frameline32

Frameline, the world's premier showcase for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender cinema, showcases their 32nd film festival at the Castro Theater, Roxie Film Center and the Victoria Theater. The festival will feature more than 250 feature and short films representing the most artistically-innovative, thematically-rich and socially-relevant LGBT images and ideas from more than two dozen countries. Information: www.frameline.org.

June 20

Music: San Francisco Opera at AT&T Park.

A live simulcast of Donizetti's opera, Lucia di Lammermoor, will be transmitted from the War Memorial Opera House to the enormous scoreboard at AT&T Park. Audience members and fans sitting in the stands and on the field can eat hot dogs, popcorn, and beer while enjoying this completely unique opera-going experience. Free. 8 p.m. Information: http://sfopera.com/press/LuciaSimulcast/.

Theater: *R. Buckmintser Fuller*

The Z Space Studio presents *R. Buckmintser Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe*, a theatrical lecture based on the writings of engineer and philosopher. R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983). The play has been performed more than 600 times with successful runs in Seattle and Chicago. Tickets \$74 to \$100. 8 p.m., Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. Information: 345.7575; www.fortmason.org.

June 21

Kids: Seeing Poetry With Gary Gach

Join poet and haiku guide Gary Gach for an afternoon exploring the ways you pay attention and respond to the world. 'Seeing Poetry With Gary Gach' is a hands-on workshop where kids tour the Exploratorium as grounds for haikus and other inspiration. 1 to 4 p.m., Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; www.exploratorim.edu.

June 24

Film: Global Honking Ground

Southern Exposure presents an evening of short films and videos organized by the ongoing collaborative framework 16Beaer. 16Beaver interprets America as "the contradiction and tragic failure of capitalism right now; ground rent, for everything that concerns housing; ground to the bone, for flexible labor; ground as the earth itself, overheating and poised; ground zero wherever a bomb goes off and people die." Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. Information: 978.2787.

June 26 - July 20

Theater: *Citizen Josh*

Ashby theater presents celebrated monologist and public television host Josh Kornbluth's highly acclaimed take on democracy, *Citizen Josh*, by Tony Award-winning Berkeley Producer and resident Jonathan Reinis. Inspiration for Citizen Josh came to Kornbluth after the 2004 election; he weaves his web of smart, funny, and moving autobiographical tales into a personal quest to engage the fundamentals of democracy. Post-show talks with local personalities George Lakoff, Mayor Tom Bates, Loni Hancock and *San Francisco Chronicle* Critic Robert Hurwitt, among others, will engage the audiences in larger conversations about politics and art in Berkeley. Tickets \$25. 1901 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley. Information: 510.841.500 extension 303; www.shotgunplayers.org.



District 10 Land Swap

Continued from Front Page

"There could be a great park there," said Wade. "And we found an institution that's willing to be involved." The California College of the Arts has said it would pay for park maintenance, relieving the Parks and Recreation Department from what has been a constant struggle to maintain sufficient gardening staff, especially at smaller parks.

With the area's growing population a new park is not a utopian ideal but a necessity. "Open space helps the health of the neighborhood," said Kelly. According to Corinne Woods, a member of Mission Creek Conservancy and a 20-plus year Mission Creek houseboat resident, life on the channel used to be peaceful before Mission Bay development gave rise to condominiums in every direction, with concomitant traffic and pollution. The area now hosts 3,000 new housing units, with another 6,000 more expected over the next few years.

According to the San Francisco Department of Planning, four acres of open space is required to meet open space needs given expected population density in the Showplace Square neighborhood. "The City is trying to put thousands more people into this area. In 20 years, the Potrero population is going to triple," Kelly said.

According to Woods, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is in the process of developing a \$10 million plan to upgrade Mission Creek's pump station so that it can handle sewage overflow. Every winter a mixture of rainwater and waste flows into the channel, carrying a foul stench past the twenty houseboats and new condominiums lining the water. "Part of the solution could be not only making a park on Channel Street, but using part of it as a storm water treatment facility," Woods said. "The City is under pressure to reduce storm water. It's an opportunity."

The six-year-old Eastern Neighborhood Community Planning and Rezoning process is expected to call for a doubling in housing density, and bring more jobs from the commercial sector into an area with a history of heavy industry. "Old industrial land has been developed without much planning and we've ended up with major conflict between industrial, residential, and commercial uses," said Woods. "The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Real Estate have not been coordinating with this Eastern Neighborhood planning process."

Kelly, who's been involved in local land use issues for years, was dumbstruck when he looked at the most recent rezoning draft, which was released two months ago. Channel Street was included within a specially marked Special Use District (SUD), under which development can occur outside of zoning laws. The Department of Real Estate had conducted an assessment of Channel Street and valued the land as industrial; but as a SUD the

land would be significantly more valuable.

"At a Land Use Commission meeting at the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Planning said they didn't know what was going to be built in the SUD area," Kelly explained. "They said they didn't know Channel Street was being valued as SUD in the new zoning map." According to Kelly, when the Real Estate Department asked the Planning Department about Norcal's proposed land swap, they responded that it was a gift to Norcal to raise the value of their land.

According to Janet Carpinelli, who chairs the nonprofit Green Trust, once Channel Street is transferred to private ownership it will be more difficult for the City to obtain open space in Showplace Square. "We know that you never buy private property for open space. You work with what the City already owns." But under current proposals the 100-foot by 628-foot gravel strip is slated for use as a parking lot for Norcal's trucks. "This happened without any public notification. Norcal is pushing for it to be done as soon as possible," said Carpinelli. "There's a lot of pressure from Norcal," confirmed Wade. "If it's converted to Norcal there's nothing that will stop them from developing and selling it."

The City, which has owned a small piece of Little Hollywood Park since 1976, has been negotiating with Norcal to acquire the rest of the park for public use for many years. A 2007 Recreation and Parks Department report describes the park's deteriorating playing surfaces, picnic areas, a crumbling asphalt pathway, and a "children's play area that does not comply with current safety guidelines". Renovation plans are tied to City-ownership of the park.

Many community members feel that it's unfair for the City to pit one neighborhood against another. "The City should own Little Hollywood. But they shouldn't use Channel Street to pay for it," Kelly said. "None of us think Norcal should blackmail the City," Woods agreed.

Wade explained that the Park and Recreation Department views the proposed land swap as a way to expand an existing park, while avoiding the need to maintain a new smaller park. "It's not long-term, effective thinking," she said. According to Wade, the Open Space Fund, which was created 30 years ago to finance park acquisition, has been diverted to operating costs and other projects. But the million dollars a year in property taxes that go to the Recreation and Park Department for acquiring open spaces have become a "slush fund", paying for expenses other than park acquisition, such as the renovation of Harding Golf Course for a tournament.

Rose Dennis of the Recreation and Park Department said the department supported the proposed exchange because of an ongoing need for open space acquisition. Christine Falvey of the Department of Public Works – the agency responsible for Channel Street maintenance – said that the land swap seemed

like a win-win situation. "Little Hollywood park will become an open space. The area around Channel Street is very industrial and it's not linking neighborhoods together. It's a dirt street. It doesn't serve any purpose."

According to Kelly, District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's office hasn't taken a clear position on the swap, but has suggested that Hooper Street – at the end of Mission Creek, between Seventh and 16th streets – be used to fulfill Showplace Square's open space requirement. But both Woods and Kelly point out that Hooper Street is only half the size of Channel Street and too narrow for use as a park. And Hooper and Channel combined would only create two acres, leaving another required two acres of open space unmet. Supervisor Maxwell was unavailable for comment.

Norcal continues to make the case that it would only own half of Channel Street, while the City would own the other half. But Wade sees that division as problematic. "If the other half of the land is blocked and you can't get through, there's no use."

According to Norcal representative Robert Reed, "The Planning Department is on board with this. This width will allow essential services to be provided, e.g. fire, and still be a public access, i.e., a 50 foot wide street, deemed adequate by the Planning Department. Channel Street is not an existing street. Rather it is a gravel parcel, a sliver of undeveloped property...." Wade counters that paper streets, alleys, and dead ends have great potential for use as open space, with upwards of 400 acres represented by these kinds of land parcels. "It took the open space fund 30 years to pull together 100 acres."

Woods remembers when a group of businesses put up a fence around Channel Street several years ago to keep out vagrants and stop vandalism. "Now there are tons of new units with no open space and no private space. The City has not put out any

money and it's not suggesting any alternatives. And Norcal is parking for free right now inside a fenced-in Channel Street," said Carpinelli. According to Reed Golden Gate Disposal and Recycling keeps its collection trucks and containers on property they own on Berry and Seventh streets, and that the trucks parked on Channel Street may be from a storage company next door.

"I am told the Planning Department has supported the exchange and the Real Estate Department drafted language for the transfer to go forward," Reed stated. "I am told a contract has been drawn up and we have signed it. Therefore we have done what we need to do...the ball is in their court." Planning Department representatives said they didn't know the details of the proposed deal, and that all questions should be directed to the Department of Park and Recreation or to Supervisor Maxwell's office.

According to Dennis, the swap has not yet been finalized; over the next several weeks the department will work with Supervisor Maxwell's office to clarify an agreement. "In the meantime, we are following Supervisor Maxwell's lead," Dennis said. Land swaps must ultimately be approved by both the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

In a letter to Larry Martin, Recreation and Park Commission president, the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association stated: "Norcal can well afford to buy land from a private source if they need to move and expand. And Norcal should continue to let Vis Valley use as a park the land that Norcal apparently does not need. The City should not turn public space into private space when the City has no money to purchase new public open space." According to Wade, "This land swap is a failure of the public imagination and civic commitment to parks."

To voice your opinion contact Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's office: 554.7670.

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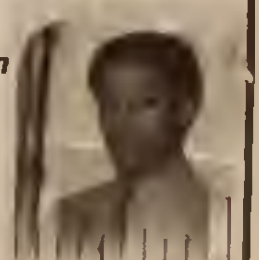
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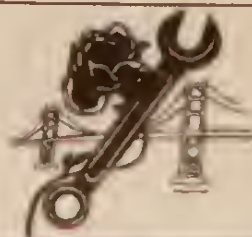
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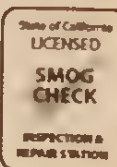
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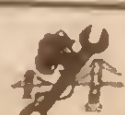
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First Friday: 11:00 am

More info: 415-285-5272 E-mail: infor@stteresasf.org Visit: www.stteresasf.org

thank you

UCSF Mission Bay Community Task Force

Thank you, UCSF Mission Bay Community Task Force members, for your dedication and commitment to this great, collaborative effort!

The Task Force, during eight meetings over the course of nearly one year, examined the potential positive and negative impacts of UCSF development in the Mission Bay area. With input from the broader public at two community workshops, the Task Force identified community issues and developed Planning Principles to address these issues and—equally important—maintain communication between UCSF and the community.

Key Planning Principles categories include:

- Community Consultation and Notification
- Cushioning of Impacts
- Building Design
- Environmental Planning and Safety
- Human Resources and Economic Improvement
- Land Use
- Transportation



Another Task Force product was the study conducted by Economic and Planning Systems (EPS) in conjunction with Task Force members. The study—Commercial Land Use Impacts: UCSF Mission Bay Campus and Hospital (referred to as the “spin-off effects” study—concluded that Mission Bay and the surrounding area would have sufficient capacity to accommodate UCSF-related activities without “crowding out” other land uses.

See the Task Force's final report, which includes the Planning Principles, at www.community.edu (Mission Bay Community Task Force)

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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UCSF Community Advisory
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(Parnassus)

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Dogpatch Neighborhood
Association

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